

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gateway as a node of a local network and a wide area network, comprising:

command processing means for processing a first command according to a first network protocol which is used in said local network;

network configuration storing means for storing gateway specifying information for specifying another gateway connected via said wide area network; and

second command processing means for processing a second command according to a second network protocol which is used in said wide area network and executing protocol conversion between said first network protocol and said second network protocol,

thereby controlling permission or inhibition of communication on the basis of the gateway specifying information stored in said network configuration storing means.

2. A gateway according to claim 1, further comprising accompanying information storing means for storing device specifying information for specifying a network device connected to a local network of said another gateway,

thereby controlling the permission or inhibition of the communication on the basis of the device specifying information stored in said

accompanying information storing means.

3. A gateway according to claim 1, wherein said gateway specifying information is at least one of a global IP address, a domain name, and information for using encrypted communication.

4. A gateway according to claim 1, wherein said gateway specifying information is an IP address different from a global IP address released to a domain name system DNS server.

5. A gateway according to claim 1, wherein when a first command to search said whole local network is received, a second search command is transmitted to said another gateway specified by said gateway specifying information.

6. A gateway according to claim 1, wherein when a second search command transmitted from said another gateway specified by said gateway specifying information is received, a first command to search said whole local network of said gateway is transmitted.

7. A communicating method in a gateway as a node of a local network and a wide area network, comprising:

    a receiving step of receiving a first command according to a first network protocol which is used in said local network;

    a converting step of converting the first command received in said receiving step into a second command according to a second network protocol which is used in said wide area network; and

a communication control step of controlling permission or inhibition of communication on the basis of gateway specifying information for specifying another gateway connected via said wide area network.

8. A communicating method in a gateway as a node of a local network and a wide area network, in which

a first command conforms with a first network protocol which is used in said local network, and

a second command conforms with a second network protocol which is used in said wide area network,

wherein said method comprises:

a receiving step of receiving the second command transmitted from said wide area network;

a converting step of converting the second command received in said receiving step into said first command; and

a communication control step of controlling permission or inhibition of communication on the basis of device specifying information for specifying a network device connected to said local network of said gateway.